GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:462
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
LACK OF CANCER SCREENING FACILITIES IN HOSPITALS
KHAGEN DAS;M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are insufficient cancer screening facilities in the Government hospitals as reported in the Times of India, New Delhi dated March 18, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide poractive cancer screening facilities and its cure?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 462 FOR 23.4.2003

Health being a State subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Most of the primary, secondary and tertiary level health care facilities in the country have provision for early detection of common cancers like Breast, Uterine Cervix, Oral Cavity etc.

The Government of India is augmenting the State Government`s efforts in provision of early detection, diagnosis and treatment facilities for cancer under various components of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).The District Cancer Control Programme (DCCP), a component of National Cancer Control Programme, focuses on early detection and prevention of cancer in selected districts by providing training and necessary equipments. The comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities in respective regions/States are extended by 20 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) established under NCCP. 14 Institutions including 12 Regional Cancer Centres have initiated population based cancer control programmes on pilot basis mainly for screening of cancers of Cervix, Breast and Oral-Cavity.Under National Cancer Control Programme, through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) health education/awareness activities for prevention and early detection of cancer are undertaken. The Indian Council of Medical Research has also initiated a research project on screening for cancers of Cervix, Breast and Oral Cavity in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, which is expected to cover a population of about 15 lakhs.

The National Cancer Control Programme also provides financial assistance for augmenting diagnostic and treatment facilities under `Cobalt Scheme (including Mammography Unit)` and `Development of Oncology Wing in all Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals.`

The Central Government hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Pos Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Post-Graduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, etc. are well-equipped to provide specialized treatment for cancer.